

G-V-A-100

Alex Lower Farm  
Gortner  
Private

1878

The Alex Lower Farm consists of a circa 1878 frame dwelling, and an 1890's frame bank barn. The house is a two-story, gable-roofed building on a stone foundation with a basement level. Its basic configuration is a four bay by one bay rectangular plan with a full length, two-tiered facade porch.

The facade and rear elevations have the same pattern of openings: three evenly spaced bays of 6/6 sash windows with a raised four-panel door between the two eastern bays. The facade porch is a shed-roofed extension of the gable roof, supported by six chamfered posts on each level. Both end walls are unfenestrated.

## INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Alex Lower Farm

AND/OR COMMON

Mary A. Queer Farm

**2 LOCATION**

STREET &amp; NUMBER

Jasper Riley Rd., .4 mile off E side, .4 mile N of Pleasant Valley Church

CITY, TOWN

Gortner

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

6th

☒ VICINITY OF

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Garrett County

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

## CATEGORY

☐ DISTRICT☒ BUILDING(S)☐ STRUCTURE☐ SITE☐ OBJECT

## OWNERSHIP

☐ PUBLIC☒ PRIVATE☐ BOTH

## PUBLIC ACQUISITION

☐ IN PROCESS☐ BEING CONSIDERED

## STATUS

☒ OCCUPIED☐ UNOCCUPIED☐ WORK IN PROGRESS

## ACCESSIBLE

☐ YES: RESTRICTED☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED☒ NO

## PRESENT USE

☐ AGRICULTURE☐ COMMERCIAL☐ EDUCATIONAL☐ ENTERTAINMENT☐ GOVERNMENT☐ INDUSTRIAL☐ MILITARY☐ MUSEUM☐ PARK☒ PRIVATE RESIDENCE☐ RELIGIOUS☐ SCIENTIFIC☐ TRANSPORTATION☐ OTHER**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Mary A. Queer

Telephone #:

STREET &amp; NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

☐ VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**COURTHOUSE  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Garrett County Courthouse

STREET &amp; NUMBER

Third and Alder Streets

CITY, TOWN

Oakland

STATE

Maryland 21550

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

None

DATE

☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

## 7 DESCRIPTION

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### CONDITION

☐ EXCELLENT  
☒ GOOD  
☐ FAIR

☐ DETERIORATED  
☐ RUINS  
☐ UNEXPOSED

### CHECK ONE

☐ UNALTERED  
☒ ALTERED

### CHECK ONE

☒ ORIGINAL SITE  
☐ MOVED DATE \_\_\_\_\_

### DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Alex Lower Farm consists of a circa 1878 frame dwelling, and an 1890's frame bank barn. The house is a two story, gable-roofed building on a stone foundation with a basement level. Its basic configuration is a four bay by one bay rectangular plan with a full length, two-tiered facade porch.

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The present occupant reports that the frame of the building is sheathed with heavy board on each side, then covered with weatherboard on the exterior. The roof was originally covered with white pine shingles; these have been removed and replaced with asphalt roll roofing material. Its box cornice has partial gable end returns and a plain board frieze.

The first floor rooms have been rearranged. Originally, the center room contained an enclosed corner staircase on its rear wall and a stone fireplace on its west wall made of stones hauled from Backbone Mountain. The kitchen, on the west side of the center room, had a cookstove attached to the back side of the stone chimney. Two small bedrooms occupied the area on the east side of the center room. The major changes have been the removal of the stone fireplace and its chimney, and the two bedrooms.

The interior doors are hand planed batten doors. Vertical tongue and groove board panels the walls and forms the room partitions. The walls are now wall-papered, but were originally painted golden yellow with brown trim on the first floor, and light green with a black ceiling border on the second floor.

The barn, located approximately 75 yards northeast of the house, has a frame of circular sawn lumber with mortise and tenon joints. It is covered with vertical board siding and supported by a foundation of coursed, roughly squared stone. The first floor level served as a granary.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**8 SIGNIFICANCE**

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PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES	house, ca.1878 barn, late 1890's	BUILDER/ARCHITECT	Alex Lower
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**STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

This house is thought to have been built by Alex Lower. Several of his relatives in the vicinity built houses on this same pattern. This one was built after "Aunt Jane's" house, which was located in the Bethlehem Settlement approximately four miles east of this site (The house no longer stands.)

**CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY**

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Interview with Pearl Nault, current resident and relative of Alex Lower, 19 August 1981.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY \_\_\_\_\_

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME / TITLE

Valerie Cesna, Historic Sites Surveyor

ORGANIZATION

Maryland Historical Trust/Bureau of Mines

DATE

January 1982

STREET & NUMBER

Shaw House, 21 State Circle

TELEPHONE

(301) 269-2438

CITY OR TOWN

Annapolis

STATE

Maryland 21401

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust  
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 267-1438



Table Rock, MD:WV  
 USGS 7.5 Minute Series  
 Scale 1:24,000  
 1948; photorevised 1974

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 Alex Lower Farm  
 Jasper Riley Rd., .4 mile off  
 E side, .4 mile N of Pleasant Valley  
 Church



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Alex Lower Farm

Garrett County, MD

Valerie Cesna 8/19/81

Rear: NW & NE elevations